

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 12, 15, 16, 24, 27, 28, 31, 34, 36, 37, and 39, all of which are independent. Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 17-23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 35, 38, and 40-45 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are respectfully sought.

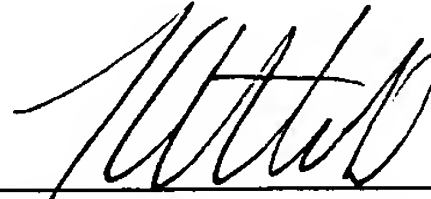
Claims 28, 31, and 34 stand allowed. As none of these claims has been further amended, they remain in condition for allowance.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner identified claims 12, 15, 16, 24, 27, 36, 37, and 39 as reciting patentable subject matter and as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, and in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has rewritten each of those claims into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, each of claims 12, 15, 16, 24, 27, 36, 37, and 39 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early passage to issue is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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